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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13
/075 W
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O 201000Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9807
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0904

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, RH, AO, BC, ZA, TZ, MZ
SUBJECT: FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS MEETING IN LUANDA

REF: A. GABORONE 757; B. GABORONE 756

1. SUMMARY: MINEXTAFF SECRETARY MPOTOKWANE WAS A MEMBER OF NES KHAMAJS PARTY ATTENDING LUANDA MEETING APRIL 17-18. OTHERS INCLUDED EXTAFF MINISTER MOGWE AND PRE PRIVATE SECRETARY LEGWAILA. MPOTOKWANE REPORTED PRINCIPAL TOPIC DURING TEN HOURS OF DISCUSSION WAS HOW TO ACHIEVE UNITY WITHIN NKOMO-MUGABE ALLIANCE. REPS OF PATRIOTIC FRONT, SWAPO AND SOUTH AFRICAN ANC ATTENDED. FONSEC OWEN MISSION REPORTEDLY WAS NOT DISCUSSED. END SUMMARY.

2. MPOTOKWANE ATTENDED LUANDA SUMMIT WHICH HE EMPHASIZED CONFIDENTIAL

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WAS FOLLOW-ON TO BEIRA, QUELIMANE AND OTHER FRONT-LINE MEETINGS. THERE WERE THREE SESSIONS IN LUANDA: ONE ON ZIMBABWE LASTING SEVEN HOURS BEGINNING 8:30 P.M., APRIL 17, AND TWO SHORTER MEETINGS DURING MORNING OF APRIL 18 DEVOTED TO STATUS REPORTS AND PLEAS FOR MORE ASSISTANCE FROM SWAPO'S NUJOMA AND ANC'S TAMBO. PRESIDENTS ALSO SPENT ONE HOUR AT "MASS RALLY". BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS OF APRIL 20 REPORTS GIST OF PRESIDENTIAL

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SPEECHES (SEPTEL).

3. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH ME AND EMBOFF, MPOTOKWANE SAID THAT TALKS FOCUSED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON WAYS TO PROMOTE UNITY WITHIN PATRIOTIC FRONT. AFTER DISCUSSINPO PROBLEM FOR SOME TIME, PRESIDENTS CALLED IN NKOMO AND MUGABE WHO ELABORATED ON IDEAS ZAPU AND ZANU HAD DEVELOPED FOR PROMOTING UNITY. MPOTOKWANE EMPHASIZED THAT AT NO TIME DID PRESIDENTS SUGGEST OR DICTATE TO PF MODALITIES FOR ACHIEVING UNITY.

4. INTERESTINGLY, MPOTOKWANE SAID THAT OWEN MISSION WAS NOT DISCUSSED AT ALL IN LUANDA. DESPITE REPEATED QUESTIONING ON THIE MATTER, HE STUCK TO THIS ASSERTION.

5. GOB VIEWS. BOTSWANA IS EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT LACK OF PF UNITY. (WE RECALL GOB FAVORED COALITION GOVERNMENT IN ANGOLA AND ONLY RELUCTAN)6 RECOGNIZED MPLA AS "FAIT ACCOMPLIS".) MPOTOKWANE NOTED THAT GOB:RUONE OF FEW MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACIES ON THE CONTINENT, IS UNCOMFORTABLE WITH AFRICAN PENCHANT FOR DECLSMVNG ONE GROUP OR ANOTHER AS "ONLY LEGTIMATE REPRESEN-MNWPIVE". MPOTOKWANE VIEWS SOLE RECOGNITION OF SWAPO, FOR EXAMPLE AS "TERRIBLE MISTAKE" ALTHOUGH ISSUE WENT "ALL THE WAY TO THE UN". HE IS ALSO DISTRESSED THAT, DESPITE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER'S CLARIFICATION (REFTELS), BOTSWANA'S ACQUIESCENCE IN FRONT'LINE RECOGNITION OF PF IS BEING MISINTERPRETED. HE IS EQUALLY CONCERNED THAT FRONT-LINE WILL BE "EMBAR-RASSED" SHOULD PF ELEMENTS BEGIN FIGHTING AMONG THEMSELVES, AN OUTCOME MPOTOKWANE APPEARED TO CONSIDER LIKELY. GOB THINKS NKOMO REALIZES TENUOUSNESS OF PF ALLIANCE AND IS THEREFORE CONFIDENTIAL

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RAPIDLY BUILDING UP HIS ZAMBIA-BASED ZAPU ARMY WHICH MPOTOKWANE DESCRIBES AS "QUITE LARGE". COMPLICATING THIS SITUATION FOR DEMOCRATIC BOTSWANA IS MPOTOKWANE'S (AND WE BELIEVE GOB'S) ESTIMATE THAT MUZOREWA STILL HAS MAJORITY FOLLOWING WITHIN ZIMBABWE. DURING CONVERSATION, MPOTOKWANE ADMITTED SOME CONCERN THAT NKOMO AND/OR MUGABE, IF THEY HAD ADEQUATE CONTROL OVER INTERIM GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES AND IF THEY FEARED LOSING AN ELECTION, MIGHT DECLARE INDEPENDENT BLACK STATE AND CONTINUE TO RULE WITHOUT ELECTIONS BEYOND ESTABLISHED INDEPENDENCE DATE.

6. DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS DESIRED. NORLAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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